

to protect our people are undermined by inaction by this Congress.

The Charleston loophole is the decent place to begin. We sat in on the House floor because we could not go home in silence for July Fourth. Today, we declare no recess from the gun show loophole until universal background checks become the law of the land.

GUN SAFETY

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, we ought to be able to go to the store, walk down our sidewalks, and go dancing without the fear of being shot. Democrats and Republicans in the United States House of Representatives need to come together to pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

What is wrong with a no fly, no buy bill? If you can't get on a plane, if you cannot board one of our commercial aircraft carriers in this country, why in the world can you go into a sporting goods store and buy a TEC-9—or any kind of gun for that matter? We need to do something.

Let me tell you, as a native Texan, responsible gun owners aren't the problem. I own a gun. A lot of Democrats that I know own guns. But I don't want al Qaeda and I don't want ISIS owning guns. But under the current laws in the U.S., if they are on a no-fly list, they can go into a sporting goods store and buy a gun.

It is just not right. Let's take some action now, Mr. Speaker.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, if you go to a federally licensed gun dealer to buy a firearm, you must pass a background check. But if you go to a private seller at a gun show or over the Internet, it is completely legal to buy a firearm with no background check to determine if you are fit to own a deadly weapon.

In all the discussion we have had on gun violence, I have yet to hear one good reason why this loophole should continue to exist.

Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of gun owners and 86 percent of Republican voters support universal background checks. But instead of listening to the American people, my Republican colleagues have left town. They have rushed out of town. They have scrambled out of town.

I will say the same thing I told my students when I was a high school teacher: There can be no recess until our work is done.

Come back to Washington, and let's pass a universal background check bill.

CONGRESS MUST DO ITS JOB

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the House of Representatives prepares to leave Washington for 7 weeks—52 days—without addressing some of the most critical issues we face in this country.

Instead of working together, Democrats and Republicans, towards meaningful solutions to protect the American people, we spent the week debating bills that are going to go absolutely nowhere.

Our constituents are tired of our not getting things done. We have failed to meaningfully respond to the Flint water crisis, which has left families in my home State of Michigan reeling for too long.

My women friends are afraid to go outside because they are afraid they are going to be bitten by a mosquito, and we failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

When I meet with victims of domestic violence, which I do quietly every week, they want to know why can't we just talk about it.

People want to know why I am coming home for so long. They want action in this Chamber. We need to do the job the American people elected us to do. We need to come together to find solutions to the bigger problems we face.

Let's do our job.

ISSUES LEFT UNADDRESSED

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, when you think about it, it is a very simple solution to think about: If you can't fly because you are too dangerous to be on a plane and you are a threat to the country, why would you be allowed to buy a gun? Yet the gun lobby is so strong that our colleagues in the Republican Party could not see fit to change that.

Secondly, we have another threat in this country and that we are not paying attention to. We have a Zika epidemic that is brewing. It started already. It is hurting the territories. It is going to hurt Florida in a strong way, and it will move north. Then it might be too late, when we have so many people sick.

Why would they leave town and run away from real issues when they could have stayed here and faced the American people by doing the right thing? What are they going to say now to the American people when they ask: Why didn't you protect the children? Why didn't you protect the pregnant women? Why didn't you stop crazy people or people who need help from getting on an airplane with a gun?

That is the big issue that we have to deal with.

□ 1530

CONGRESS HAS BEEN GROSSLY IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Congress is set to take the longest recess in memory with critical national priorities, even emergencies, unaddressed.

Three weeks ago on the floor of this House, we engaged in civil disobedience to protest the carnage of gun violence in our country and the disgrace of congressional inaction in the face of that.

Republican leadership was prevented by their Freedom Caucus from putting even a token measure on the floor. But we will not rest until we are able to keep guns out of the hands of prospective terrorists and are able to have effective background checks.

And now, incredibly, the Zika crisis is upon us. Months ago this should have been addressed. I convened researchers and government officials from my area, which is a research hub, to talk about the heroic efforts underway to find out how to prevent the spread of this virus, to understand how to develop a vaccine. Heroic work is going on. People are moving money around, dealing with the absence of a steady funding stream.

We have let our people down. A public health crisis is coming. Congress has been grossly irresponsible in failing to provide steady and sure emergency funding for what is surely going to be a desperate public health emergency.

ANNIVERSARY OF SANDRA BLAND'S DEATH

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Congress to stay in session to take action against public health crises that are plaguing our country.

As the only Ph.D. scientist in Congress, I find it deeply disturbing that Congress has failed to act in the face of clear evidence: 91 Americans die from gunshot wounds every day; since 2014, more than 28,000 Americans have died from opioid overdoses; dangerous levels of lead are present in the drinking water of thousands of American families; and the Zika virus is a global health crisis that is now reaching our shores. Too many Americans are dying from senseless, but preventable, causes.

I represent the 11th District of Illinois, and this week marked the 1-year anniversary of another senseless death. Sandra Bland was a beloved member of our community. She died 1 year ago yesterday, alone in a Texas jail, after she was arrested for a minor traffic violation.

After 3 days in jail, Ms. Bland was found dead in her cell. The coroner ruled it a suicide, but we still don't

have the answers we need and that Sandra Bland's family deserves.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO CHANGE THE GUN LAW

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, we find some people so dangerous that we won't let them on a plane, but currently they can buy a gun. That makes no sense. How can you tell a person: No, you can't have that ticket, but would you like an automatic weapon? Would you like a machine gun?

That makes no sense.

If our law enforcement specialists, those that deal with this day in and day out, say to us this person should not get on a plane, how can we have laws right now that allow that person, then, to go right down to the store and get an automatic weapon and all the ammunition that he wants?

That makes no sense. In fact, the American people know that that makes no sense.

We need to change the law. We don't need a vacation. That is why we should be here right now debating these bills and doing something for the safety of our people.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS THREE CRISES

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has decided to adjourn the House and take a 7-week vacation without dealing with the three crises that are pressing upon us now:

The epidemic of gun violence, a uniquely American crisis: every year, about 146 people die of gun violence in the United Kingdom, 71 in Denmark, 140 in Portugal, 30 in Japan—and 33,000 in the United States;

The Zika health crisis, which is about to give us thousands of terribly disabled babies; and

The Flint, Michigan, crisis, whose water was poisoned by the decision of the Governor's appointee.

We should not leave here without providing funds for Zika, funds without offsets and without irrelevant poison pills; we should at least enact a no fly, no buy bill and universal background checks to start dealing with the gun violence epidemic; and we should get Flint, Michigan, some drinkable water.

Let the majority deal with these three crises, then take a 6-week vacation if they want. But don't sentence thousands of Americans to die while you go off on vacation.

LEGISLATURE NEEDS TO GET ITS WORK DONE

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in Dallas, Texas, we saw a champion. We saw a champion in Police Chief David Brown and how he conducted himself. When asked about his responsibility, he said: We will continue to do our responsibility as police officers, as we do every day out in the field. But the legislature needs to do its responsibility. The legislature needs to get its work done.

Those brave police officers do their work every day, and yet this Congress has not.

Roosevelt said it best about our colleagues on the other side of the aisle: They are frozen in the ice of their own indifference—indifference to the slaughter that takes place in our streets, indifference to the more than 1,000 mass murders that have taken place, indifference to the threat of Zika and the spread of disease, and indifference to children in Flint, Michigan.

It is time for us to do as David Brown said, "Do your job."

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in the course of these 1-minutes, of which there have been over 50, thank you, Mr. CICILLINE, for bringing us together once again on the steps of the Capitol a couple of nights ago and now here in the Chamber.

When we are in school and they ask us to write about something, they say: Answer these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Who? Little children in Newtown, young people in Orlando, churchgoers in South Carolina, moviegoers in Colorado, again and again. The list goes on and on as to the vulnerability.

What? What? What? Slaughter of people. Mr. THOMPSON has repeated the numbers over and over again. But 91 people killed every night on the streets of our country, and we had 91 people in orange shirts on the steps of the Capitol last week to mention that. Over 1,000 mass murders since Newtown, mass murders being described as over four people being killed in any one instance.

What? What? What? Violence on the streets of our city, and even in our churches and other.

Who? What? When? Every day. Every single day with greater frequency and intensity. Most recently, in Dallas. So sad. An assassination of five police officers. Many of us spoke to that in the course of the last few days.

Where? All over the country. I just mentioned Dallas, and I mentioned some other venues earlier. All over the country, every single day.

But the main question is, Why? Why is this happening? Mayor Rawlings of

Dallas was very eloquent in his comments when he said: We must address the root causes of this. Yes.

But why are these guns so readily available? Because Congress will not act—refuses to act—on passing commonsense gun violence prevention legislation. No fly, no buy. Almost everyone in our country supports that—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, gun owners, NRA members.

Not the NRA. The NRA stands between any commonsense solutions and this Congress, which I think they own.

Why? Because some people think their political survival is more important than survival of little kids in kindergarten in Newtown.

Why is it happening in kindergarten classes? in churches? in places of recreation for young people? in theaters? in bowling alleys? You name it, it has happened there.

Why? Because we have not fully impressed upon the American people their role in lobbying Congress to make a difference. We are limited in what we can ask people to do vis-a-vis Congress, but they are unlimited in their advocacy and in their capacity. Nothing is more eloquent to a Member of Congress than the voice of his or her own constituents.

As JOHN LEWIS, our beautiful icon who has led us in all of this, has said: What we have to do is convince the average Joe—that would be J-O or J-O-E—of their power to make the difference in our country by making their voices heard to Members of Congress who have the power to vote for legislation.

We ask over and over again for the Speaker to give us a vote because we believe and have confidence in the American people that their voices will be heard and not ignored again and again and again and again by the Republicans in Congress, but will give us a vote that will make America safer and help us to honor—to honor—our oath of office to protect and defend the American people.

This has gone into the realm of hate crimes. The same thing in South Carolina. The same thing in Orlando. It must end.

But our message is clear: we will not end until this is over, until we get commonsense gun violence prevention legislation passed by the Congress of the United States.

I thank all of my colleagues for what they are doing. Our whip, Mr. HOYER, is leader on the floor for us. Thank you for orchestrating this with Mr. CICILLINE and so many others. I thank my colleagues for making the voices of their constituents heard here.

GUN LOBBY HAS BLOCKED EFFORTS TO PASS SENSIBLE GUN LAWS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)